

REMARKS

The Office Action dated July 16, 2003 is procedurally flawed and thus very confusing in at least the following respects. The Office Action is *incomplete* and incorrect for at least the following reasons.

First, and perhaps most importantly, the Office Action does not address claims 19-23. There is no mention of these pending claims in the Office Action. The Office Action is clearly incomplete and procedurally defective in this regard. Applicant cannot properly respond in a meaningful manner to an Office Action which does not address many pending claims.

Second, the Office Action states that it is in response to a communication filed 10 May 2003. This is confusing to applicant, since applicant's records indicate that the last communication filed in this case was the amendment dated Feb. 19, 2003. Clarification/correction is requested.

Third, Office Action did not include copies of the newly cited references listed on the PTO-892 form. Copies of the newly cited references are requested.

For at least the above-listed three (3) reasons, it is respectfully requested that the Office Action dated July 16, 2003 be withdrawn, and that a new non-final action be issued which corrects the above-listed defects.

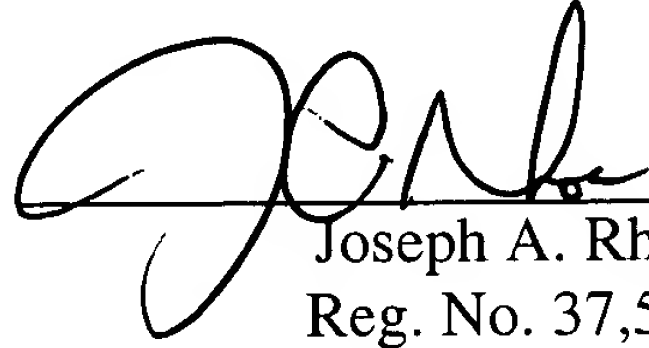
Please contact the undersigned if there should be any questions regarding the above.

KAWAI et al.
Appl. No. 09/712,227
September 4, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYTE P.C.

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Rhoa", is written over a horizontal line.

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